



# UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE  
United States Patent and Trademark Office  
Address: COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS  
P.O. Box 1450  
Alexandria, Virginia 22313-1450  
www.uspto.gov

APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
09/748,681	12/22/2000	Marc Delhouné	XP-0900	4279
21013	7590	09/13/2004	EXAMINER	
AGFA CORPORATION LAW & PATENT DEPARTMENT 200 BALLARDVALE STREET WILMINGTON, MA 01887			GRANT II, JEROME	
			ART UNIT	PAPER NUMBER
			2626	

DATE MAILED: 09/13/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

# Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/748,681

Applicant(s)

DELHOUNE ET AL.

Examiner

Jerome Grant II

Art Unit

2626

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

## Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

## Status

- 1) ☐ Responsive to communication(s) filed on \_\_\_\_.
- 2a) ☐ This action is **FINAL**. 2b) ☒ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

## Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 1-13 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) \_\_\_\_ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

## Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on \_\_\_\_ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.  
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).  
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

## Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☒ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some \* c) ☒ None of:
1. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
2. ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. \_\_\_\_.
3. ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

\* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

## Attachment(s)

- 1) ☒ Notice of References Cited (PTO-892)
- 2) ☐ Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948)
- 3) ☐ Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date \_\_\_\_.

- 4) ☐ Interview Summary (PTO-413) JEROME GRANT II  
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. \_\_\_\_ EXAMINER
- 5) ☐ Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152)
- 6) ☐ Other: \_\_\_\_.

### Detailed Action

1.

The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(a) the invention was known or used by others in this country, or patented or described in a printed publication in this or a foreign country, before the invention thereof by the applicant for a patent.

Claims 1-13 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(a) as being anticipated by Vlietinck.

With respect to claim 1, Vlietinck teaches a method for generating an image signal for an image reproduction from - at least one page element having data representative for at least one image portion of said image reproduction (see page 5, line 11 and page 12, line 1 to page 13, line 3) and - a layout signal (taught at page 13, line 4 and page 51, line 24, see also page 26 beginning at line 15) having layout data for defining at least one position of said image portion in said image reproduction (see also page 42, lines 14-18), wherein said page element is segmented into a plurality of autonomic area

Art Unit: 2626

tiles, each area tile having tile data representative for a region of said image portion (according to page 51, lines 15-20), and wherein said tile data is stored in a memory means, (see page 42, lines 23-29) comprising : - retrieving from said memory means said tile data according to said layout data for generating said image signal (see page 51 lines 24-28)

With respect to claims 2 , 7 and 10, Vlietinck teaches the linear size of said region is smaller than or equal to half a linear size of said image portion. See 205 of figure 2b

With respect to claims 3 and 9, see page 38, lines 21-26 where it shows memory 1109 and storage of compressed page elements strip by strip fashion according to figure 2b.

With respect to claim 4, see page 29, lines 25-30. See also "The Merge Process" regarding the continuous memory locations.

With respect to claim 5, this limitation is substantially taught by figure 3.

With respect to claim 6, this limitation is taught by figures 5a and 5b.

With respect to claim 8 Vlietinck teaches dividing an image tile into a plurality of blocks (see figure 3) wherein the blocks are comprised of sub-regions (fig 2b) including reproduction parameters (page descriptors) for said image blocks, see Internal Structure of the Page Layout Script at page 26. Vlietinck further teaches accessing retrieved tile data by : - retrieving from said memory means said tile data according to said layout data for generating said image signal (see page 51 lines 24-28)

With respect to claim 11, see page 43, line 29 to page 44, line 1; page 44k line 33 to page 45 line 9. See also decompression 1404 shown by figure 14 or 1017 shown by figure 10.

With respect to claim 12, Vlietinck teaches the claimed limitation in view of the CT validity mask as discussed at page 15 lines 1-14.

With respect to claim 13, Vlietinck teaches an image signal generating apparatus for an image reproduction comprising: a memory 1109 for storing; data of segmented page elements for at least one portion of the image reproduction (data stored in strips according to page 38, lines 21-26) and a layout signal (taught at page 13, line 4 and page 51, line 24, see also page 26 beginning at line 15) having layout data for defining at least one position of said image portion in said image reproduction (see also page 42, lines 14-18), wherein said page element is segmented into a plurality of autonomous area tiles, each area tile having tile data representative for a region of said image portion

Art Unit: 2626

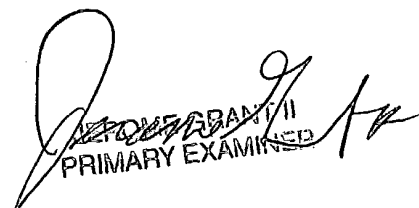
(according to page 51, lines 15-20), and wherein said tile data is stored in a memory means, (see page 42, lines 23-29) comprising : - retrieving from said memory means said tile data according to said layout data for generating said image signal. Vlientinck teaches generating said image signal for reproduction by means of printer 1019 shown by figure 10.

2.

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Jerome Grant II whose telephone number is 703-305-4391. The examiner can normally be reached on Mon.-Fri. from 9:00 to 5:00.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Kimberly A Williams, can be reached on 703-305-4863. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 703-872-9306.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).

  
JEROME GRANT II  
PRIMARY EXAMINER